

MODIS Technical Team Meeting
Thursday, February 21, 2002
Building 33, Room E125
3:00 P.M.

Vince Salomonson chaired the meeting. Present were Eric Vermote, Wayne Esaias, Bill Barnes, Shaída Johnston, Jack Xiong, Steve Kempfer, Ed Masuoka, Skip Reber, Barbara Conboy, and Dorothy Hall, with Rebecca Lindsey taking the minutes.

1.0 Upcoming Meeting

- AGU, Spring, May 28-Jun 1, Washington, D.C.
- AMS, Atmospheric Radiation and Atmospheric Physics, first week of June, Odgen, Utah.
- MODIS Land Cover Meeting, June 3-4, University of Maryland, College Park.
- IGARSS 2002, June 24-28, 2002 in Toronto (abstract deadline past)
- MODIS Community Outreach Workshop on MODIS Vegetation Variables (VI/LAI/FPAR/NPP), July 15-19th 2002, University of Montana, Missoula, MT
- MODIS Science Team Meeting, Tentative, July 22-24, 2002
- Remote Sensing of the Earth's Environment from Terra, a workshop at the International Summer School on Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, August 25-30, 2002, L'Aquila Italy
- 34TH COSPAR Scientific Assembly, October 10-19, 2002, in Houston, TX, (abstracts due 1 May)

2.0 Meeting Minutes

Instrument Update

Bill Barnes reported that MCST is going to make a LUT update that will change the rate of degradation of Band 3. Band 3 has not degraded since around day 650 (Origin: Day 0 of 2000); therefore, the LUT is over-correcting. They will make this change now, and if the degradation resumes, they will make another adjustment. Oceans is going to make a decision in the next few days about whether they want the new LUT applied to Bands 8 and 9 as well. [Post-meeting note: Oceans has responded to MCST to not make any changes at present to the ocean bands. The change in degradation is currently being handled well in the ocean L-2 gain adjustments. Oceans will revisit the issue after the L-2 code for reprocessing ocean data is accepted by MODAPS, for possible later implementation in the Terra forward stream.]

Aqua Launch

Salomonson said that with respect to Aqua launch, Claire Parkinson is thinking of having a science working group meeting on April 16. There will also be a press conference on the 17th, prior to launch on the 18th.

GES DAAC Update

Kempfer reported that as many are aware, EDG ordering has been problematic lately. Many orders are not getting through. He has sent an email detailing a number of issues

and complaints to Bob Menrad, Acting ESDIS Project Manager, copied to Salomonson. Kempler will send it to Reber as well. At the Aqua ORR, Kempler brought up the issue of EDG, which was not being discussed. He emphasized that both functionality and performance of the system should be considered. While functionality of EDG is OK, its performance is not sustained. He has written a request for action, and the issue is being tracked. The idea is to really push ESDIS about EDG testing. Masuoka said that he had a suggestion to Mike Moore that EDG ought to record all access to the EDG. Kempler and the DAAC track orders that make it though to them, but what about all the times EDG is accessed and orders don't even make it to the DAACs. Moore thought that it would help to get users more information before they place an order that will obviously fail, for example when an inexperienced user places a request for all MODIS data over North America. Moore will look into the issue of tracking EDG visits.

Johnston asked if there had been any further discussion about getting feedback on why orders fail. Kempler said that the DAWG (Data Access Working Group) had been compiling a list of problems, and perhaps it is time for some actions to be coming out of that group. Reber offered to arrange for Johnston to sit in on those DAWG meetings.

Esaias brought up the issue of the ESDIS promise of a bulk metadata update tool, and he heard from Kay Kilpatrick (RSMAS) that the tool had been delivered, but that it doesn't work for Oceans L2, i.e. multi-parameter ESDTs. Oceans is very upset about this. Masuoka said he thought that there is a DAAC unique extension that is used at EDC for Land products that fits that description, but he wasn't sure that that was the "official" ESDIS tool that had been promised (i.e. the one that Kempler thought was going to be delivered with ECS 6A.05). Reber said he had heard from Moore that the tool was coming, but not that it had been delivered. Reber said he would bring up the issue at their staff meeting Monday. [Note added in proof: The currently available version of the update tool is not the ESDIS Project version, but an EDC DAAC-unique version. The ESDIS version should be available in early March.]

Kempler said that at the ORR, he had raised the issue of staffing after first data release. He is short-staffed, and ECS is not staffing up in response. The DAAC priorities have to be on capturing, producing, and ingesting data, and distribution will have to be at the back of the list if choices have to be made. NSIDC and EDC are staffing up, but ECS says the low staff it is an acceptable risk for GSFC.

With respect to production, Kempler reported that they finished dry-season SAFARI and also validation requests for Lake Tahoe, and Australia. They limit validation requests to no more than 10% of volume unless they have resources to spare. January 2002 is complete, and February is moving along nicely as well. They are also working on year 2000 and wet-season SAFARI. Production rates are high—in the 3.5x range. There has been some downtime due to firewall issues. They have received some metrics from JPL, which reported that it distributed SST products to about 53 users, about 1GB/month of the L3.

MODAPS Update

Masuoka reported that he, too, had gone to the ORR. Things at the review were at a very high level, and while most things were ready, there were several things that won't quite be done until MOSS 7, so we have a lien against MOSS 7. The panel asked for results from MOSS 7, and other interim tests before the Mission Readiness Review. Among the issues is that of ephemeris data. MODIS ephemeris data is to come only once a day to the DAAC, and that is not really good enough for Rapid Response and Direct Broadcast. Salomonson wondered how that would affect fire detection, e.g. would fire locations be off by several kilometers? Masuoka said the accuracy of the predicted ephemeris is within 1 km according to FDS, which is the same as for Terra. Masuoka also reported that he had talked with another scientist who said Vanessa Griffin is looking at the issue of how to survey users, perhaps developing a mailing list through which people can be notified when changes would be made. We can't collect information on users due to privacy restrictions, but this also means we can't interact with them to ensure satisfaction or notify them of changes or updates.

Masuoka indicated that someone from CERES approached him about getting MODIS aerosol products as soon as they can get it from Aqua because they want to put out their product with the aerosol corrections in it Masuoka said CERES should contact Yoram Kaufman.

Masuoka also said that there has been some discussion with respect to the issue of hiding of products before they become provisional. Salomonson said that given the fact that Direct Broadcast data would be available immediately, he believes that any attempt to hide products is problematic.

Johnston suggested that perhaps this is a good time to revisit the issue of versioning numbering systems as it appears that the current system is not user friendly or system friendly, in that it is difficult for users to know exactly what all the numbers mean and also that if the numbers were straightforward, it would be easier to make collections visible when we wanted. Salomonson agreed that it would be good to investigate.

Masuoka said that the team needs to talk about check out period phasing for products after first light, and he will send an email around with starting points for discussion. Masuoka concluded by saying that MODAPS has about a week more processing on PGE 60 and the GDAS remake of atmosphere products. Moore is going to come to the meeting that Masuoka is planning (to discuss issues related to Aqua and Collection 4 reprocessing) and talk about technical aspects of the machine-to-machine gateway architecture being discussed for MODAPS and the DAAC. Masuoka added that an RFA had been issued over the timing of the 6 A 05 installation with respect to Aqua launch. Kempler said that their approach with 6.A05 is that they should go forward as if they are going to put it in, but watch carefully what happens at EDC and keep in mind that they can abandon the plan to install at a certain agreed upon date.

There was some discussion about the activation schedule, and Salomonson asked on what date first light would be. Barnes said he thought June 1. Xiong agreed to send around the

activation schedule they have to Esaias and Vermote. Esaias was concerned about being held to deadlines about provisional products and such without having knowledge of when calibration tables would be delivered. Xiong added that he thinks the deep space maneuver is scheduled for about a week after the nadir door opens. Masuoka said he would send out whatever information he had about when products were proposed to be provisional.

Oceans Update

Esaias reported that they got quite a few comments from NASA HQ and elsewhere about the press release on SST. It got a lot of exposure in media markets across the country. Miami is on schedule for delivery of new code by March 11. Oceans will need further discussions with MODAPS and the DAAC about how to pull this off, because they are running up against baseline ingest volume issues at the DAAC. Johnston agreed to arrange that meeting.

Land Update

Vermote reported that he is making progress on the IDS phase 1 product. He has been collecting comments from MODLAND team members. Salomonson said he would send Vermote the summary he has prepared. Salomonson said he still wasn't sure what to call this data set. Hall suggested it could be called the MODIS "Coarse Resolution Sampler." Vermote agreed to take responsibility for getting the CD and other material together for the project. Vermote said that Steve Running is putting together a very ambitious agenda for the upcoming MODIS Land Outreach Workshop on vegetation variables.

EOSDIS Update

Reber said he had a discussion at the Aqua Science Operational Readiness Review (ESDIS readiness) with the data system manager from the AIRS project about the product quality assessments and where they are documented with the data and he (Reber) recommends that we consider just getting rid of those definitions and the three categories. He feels we would be better off if we simply included estimates of uncertainties, since people seem to frequently misinterpret the intent of the three categories.

3.0 Action Items

3.1 Reber to send Justice the mailing list that has members of the DAWG.

Status: Closed.

3.2 Discipline leads to meet to resolve the issue of beta-release code and science-quality code, and what we need to say about it.

Status: Open.

3.3 Technical team to discuss further the issue of predicted ephemeris data and how to improve it.

Status: Open.